

State: Smart urged teen to lie to police

Tabloid, Hollywood interested in case

By FRANK RICHARDSON
Derry News Staff

The bizarre elements of the Smart murder case have already attracted national media attention, ranging from a Hollywood production company to the supermarket tabloid "Weekly World News."

Susan Jimison, a senior editor for the Florida-based sensational weekly, confirmed the paper is preparing a story on the murder and Pamela Smart's recent arrest. She has asked local newspapers for assistance.

"It's a pretty amazing story," she said by phone from the paper's Lantana, Fla., offices.

Jimison said the paper is also interested because of Pamela Smart's Florida connection. Smart spent her childhood in Tallahassee and returned there to attend Florida State University.

"She's a Florida gal," Jimison said.

Once Upon A Time, a TV production company based in Los Angeles, has sent a representative to the area to try and buy rights to the story from at least one of the Seabrook teenagers who went to police and turned in the three juveniles arrested in connection with the murder.

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Pamela Smart leaves Rockingham County Superior Court in handcuffs Monday following a judge's decision to deny her bail. This means Smart will likely be held in jail until she is tried on charges of being an accomplice to the murder of her husband.

Derry News/Cristin Grier

Conversation secretly taped by 16-year-old

By FRANK RICHARDSON
Derry News Staff

Pamela Wojas Smart urged a 16-year-old confidante to lie to police about her knowledge of Smart's husband's May 1 murder, according to a taped conversation revealed Monday in superior court.

"You'd be better off just lying to police," Smart was taped telling the 16-year-old student intern, who worked for Smart at the Hampton school district's media department. "We'd go to the f--- slammer for our entire lives."

Smart is accused of conspiring with three students she knew from school, including her alleged lover, to kill her husband, Gregory. The three teens are being held while the state attempts to have them tried as adults.

The tape's contents were revealed by prosecutors during Smart's bail hearing Monday in Rockingham County Superior Court. The tape itself wasn't played, but prosecutors revealed some of its contents during the hearing.

The tape was made after police outfitted the 16-year-old with a hidden microphone. TAPE, Page 2

Bail is denied; grand jury begins hearing case

By FRANK RICHARDSON
Derry News Staff

Pamela Wojas Smart will remain jailed pending trial on charges she planned her husband's murder with her teenage lover and two other students she taught in school, following a superior court judge's decision Monday to deny her request for bail.

Meanwhile, a county grand jury has been hearing evidence in the murder case and is set to make a decision on whether indictments will be issued, according to Assistant Attorney General Cynthia White, who is prosecuting the case.

ing the case.

Smart was arrested Aug. 1 and charged with being an accomplice to the first-degree murder of her husband, Greg. The three teens, arrested June 14, are being held at a youth detention center while the state attempts to have them certified as adults. If certified, one teen would face a first-degree murder charge and the other two would face accomplice to first-degree murder charges.

Both charges carry a penalty of life in prison without parole. The teens are not being identified because of BAIL, Page 3

The Smart murder

Smart was taped urging teen to lie about murder

TAPE

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old Seabrook resident with a hidden tape recorder. She was given the recorder after her mother went to police to say her daughter had knowledge of the murder.

Also in the tape, made July 13 in Smart's office, Smart complained about information being spread around town by a 19-year-old Seabrook man who told the Derry News he accompanied the three suspects to Derry the night Greg Smart was shot.

"If Ray Fowler hadn't run his mouth off, this would have been a perfect murder because they made it look like it was a burglary," Smart was taped saying, according to Assistant Attorney General Cynthia White.

Smart was arrested Aug. 1 and charged with being an accomplice to first-degree murder. Police have charged in an affidavit that Smart had an affair with the suspect accused of firing the fatal bullet into the head of the 24-year-old insurance salesman.

Although state law protects the confidentiality of the minors' identities, a press release from the attorney general's office names Smart's alleged lover as "William F."

The affidavit charges Smart

'You'd be better off just lying to police.'

Pamela Smart in a taped conversation with a student who knew details of the murder

said she wanted her husband dead because, "If she divorced him, he would take all the furniture, the dog and leave her with no place to live. In addition, she would not be able to date because he would follow her around."

But White told the court the teen who taped Smart also told police she walked in on Smart and William F. while they were having sex in the Smarts' bedroom last spring, while Gregory was away for a week at a business class in Warwick, Rhode Island. This was the week before Greg Smart's murder, while the student stayed with Smart at her Derry townhouse.

In an interview with the Derry News before her arrest, Smart refused to comment on whether the student who eventually taped her stayed at her house the week before her husband's death.

"Bill (William F.) wasn't there, that's for sure," said

Smart in that interview.

On June 10, one day before the three teens were arrested for killing Gregory Smart, one of the suspect's father turned in the .38-caliber handgun used in the murder and a Seabrook youth who described himself as the three suspects' best friend came forward to give police testimony, according to White.

Ralph Welch, a student at Winnacunnet, told police his friends confessed to him they murdered Greg Smart and said "he was worth more dead than alive," according to White.

White presented more information in court about Smart's involvement with William F. Welch told police he had seen Smart kissing William F. on several occasions, White said.

Welch told the Derry News in an interview that William F. had been seeing Smart for some time and that the two slept together regularly.

The student intern also said she was in Smart's office when Smart was instructing William F. on how to stage the murder so it looked like a burglary, said White. Smart told him to wear gloves, pull his hair back, and wear black clothes, according to the affidavit. She also told him to disconnect stereo speakers and move them to the back door of the apartment.

Ray Fowler said in his testimony to the Derry Police that

the boys were wearing black clothes after they came out of the house, according to White. Police found a kitchen knife, a jewelry box and a black glove believed to have been dropped by one of the suspects as they fled the murder scene, she said.

After the murder, Smart gave William F. stereo speakers from her husband's truck that were later recovered from the boy's bedroom, said White.

Initially, Smart's 16-year-old confidante told police on two occasions that she knew nothing about the murder and that the Smarts had a happy marriage, said White. But on June 14, three days after the three teens from the student's hometown were arrested, her mother called the police to say her daughter had information about the murder, according to White.

"She said her daughter didn't want to get involved, but didn't want to get into trouble for lying to police," said White.

Smart was the beneficiary of two insurance policies totalling \$140,000, according to White. Thus far, she has only received \$90,000. Paul Twomey and Mark Sisti, Smart's Chichester-based attorneys, said about half the money is left.

White said Smart's bank account containing the money was frozen, but Twomey said he has not heard of any such order on Smart's assets.



Derry News/Cristin Gisler

Pamela Smart is led out of court yesterday during her bail hearing. Judge Douglas Gray denied bail after hearing a tape in which Smart told a teenage co-worker to lie to police about her knowledge of the murder.

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The Smart murder

Smart bail denied; grand jury begins hearing case

BAIL
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state law protecting the identity of juveniles.

Smart has been held at the state women's prison in Goffstown since her arrest. Her attorneys, Paul Twomey and Mark Sisti of Chichester, had sought Monday's bail hearing in order to have her released from jail.

During the one-hour hearing at Rockingham County Superior Court in Exeter, Assistant Attorney General Cynthia White unveiled new evidence in the case, including a taped recording of Smart urging a student co-worker to lie to police about her knowledge of the murder.

"You're better off just lying to police," Smart said to her co-worker, who was wearing a hidden tape recorder. Smart warned the student if she told police what she knew, she would send herself, Smart and the other suspects "to the f-----slammer for our entire lives."

The student also said she walked in on Smart and her alleged lover, referred to in a press release from the attorney general's office as William F., while the two were having sex in the Smarts' Derry home while her husband was away on business. The student told police she had stayed the week at the Smarts' townhouse to keep Pamela Smart company while her husband was away.

Judge Douglas Gray cited this additional evidence in his decision to deny bail.

Twomey and Sisti questioned not only the credibility of the state's witnesses, but also the

validity of how police obtained the testimonies from the minors. They also complained it was hard to defend their client against allegations that surfaced for the first time in Monday's hearing.

"Nothing here is admissible evidence in a court of law," said Sisti. "It's all hearsay and double hearsay and contradictory statements from juveniles."

Linda Wojas of Windham, Pam Smart's mother, pledged her family's Windham home in exchange for her daughter's bail. Wojas also agreed to take custody of her daughter, have her live in her house, and notify the court if she's not where she's supposed to be.

Sisti assured the court there was no reason to fear Smart fleeing from town.

"There is no motive to leave this jurisdiction for Pam Smart," said Sisti. "She didn't do it."

Smart also offered testimony on her own behalf, saying she had already experienced anguish from the events preceding her arrest and that now she had to deal with being detained in prison for a crime she didn't commit.

"I am 22 years old and I am a widow," said Smart, asking the court to grant her bail and promising she would not leave the court's jurisdiction. "I would want to be in this court room to prove that I am innocent."

But despite the pleas from herself, her mother, the two defense attorneys and the crowd of family and friends that filled the sitting area of the court-



Attorney Mark Sisti of Chichester, along with associate Paul Twomey, is representing Pamela Smart. The two have charged the evidence police have against her is largely "hearsay."

room to capacity, Smart's request for bail was denied at about 1:30 p.m.

Gregory Smart's father, Wil-

liam, had one comment when reached at home Monday night.

"The judicial system is working," he said.

Case attracts interest from tabloid, Hollywood

MEDIA
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tion with the May 1 murder of Gregory Smart.

Film developer Timothy Thompson, originally of Salem, has flown home from Los Angeles to work on the story.

"We're lucky enough to have Tim, who is from the area and worked with her (Smart) a couple years ago," said Russ Albert, the film company's representative.

Boston media outlets have also become interested in the case since Smart's Aug. 1 arrest. WHDH and WBZ TV stations have done stories, as has the Boston Globe.

For WHDH-TV, or Channel 7, Pamela Smart's involvement in her husband's murder sparked interest for the editors of the station. Although North Bureau Reporter Jerry D'Amico had asked the editors to consider covering the series of events that led to Smart's arrest, he said his and other media outlets could substantiate little of the rumors about Smart's involvement until she was arrested.

D'Amico also said the timing of the murder didn't help it play on the top of his producer's list.

"Initially, when it was just a murder case, there were no unusual circumstances," said D'Amico. "Murders become daily occurrences in Boston, where the rate is high."

"I made known to producers about her involvement. But they weren't willing to move," he said.

Greg Moore, The Boston Globe's managing editor for local news, agreed with D'Amico,

saying not every murder in Boston is covered. But when certain elements pop into the story, such as Smart's arrest, the story becomes bizarre.

"When the victim's wife is arrested, it changes the whole dynamic of the story," said Moore. "You have a contract-hit, a woman who allegedly kills her husband, that's a good story. It has good element, it's compelling and it breaks some of the norms today."

Chronology of events

May 1 — Gregory Smart, 24, is found by his wife, Pamela, in their Derry townhouse, dead of a single gunshot wound to the head.

June 11 — Three 16-year-old Seabrook youths, who knew Pamela Smart from her work at Winnacunnet High School, are arrested and charged with committing the murder.

July 10 — Smart tells the Derry News she had nothing to do with her husband's murder and dismisses as rumors talk of her extramarital involvement with one of the juveniles.

Aug. 1 — Smart is arrested and charged with planning her husband's murder along with the three teens, one of whom police say is her lover.

Aug. 13 — Smart's plea for bail is denied. Grand jury begins hearing evidence in the case.

— Franci Richardson

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